

Objectives Web-a-thon

Protect and Enhance Public Access to State Waterways

July 9, 2013



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013 PUBLIC ACCESS OBJECTIVE 3:30 – 4:00 P.M. 815 S STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Meeting Objectives

Discuss and suggest revisions for the Related Actions associated with the Update 2013 Objective relating to Public Access to the State's Waterways, Lakes, and Beaches:

“Strengthen and protect human rights to the state's waterways, lakes, and beaches ensuring public access for cultural, recreational and economic purposes. Such rights and access will be consistent with maintaining healthy ecosystems.”

Document Walk Through

Cheryl Essex, State Parks Planning Chief, reviewed the Public Access Objective. She explained that the concept had been introduced at A Public AC meeting. The Objective addresses protection and enhancement of public access to the state's waterways and beaches. There is a real imperative to act with sealevel rise, deteriorating environmental conditions, public health hazards and degraded facilities. When this was previously discussed, some concerns about private property rights. Also, there are also some places that need protection, which the public should not access.

Related Actions

The proposed Related Actions, and the ensuing discussion, are presented below. Please note that the actions below have been abridged from the original text and the sub-actions are not included in their entirety:

General Discussion

- It may be that public access and use is not consistent with maintaining healthy ecosystems.
 - There may be places where there should not be public access.
- Change “will” to “should” throughout this objective
- There needs to be a tighter connection to the Water Plan.
 - The Water Plan now includes near coastal issues, which includes some significant aspects of access.
 - Can this include examples of how public use and water management are linked?

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- Public access is an element of the public supporting and promoting water management.
 - Access a one of the values relating to water.
 - This is one of the four pillars of the State Water Project, which is historically underfunded.
 - Water access is a critical part of recreation and property values. The state owns extensive amounts of property adjoining water bodies. Access to water provides significant benefits to the State. This also ties to the water-dependent recreation RMS and the Water and Culture RMS.
1. State government will respect and vigorously protect waterways, lakes and beaches for beneficial public use. Item #a: The will support the regulatory responsibilities (several agencies listed, along with associated authority) that protect beneficial uses and other public access rights. Item #b: State conservancies will acquire and/or protect sensitive landscapes (several examples provided), and will protect and/or acquire land to maintain public access. Item #c: Protect recreational resource values threatened by climate change, using strategies of reinforcement, adaptation and/or retreat, as feasible. Item #d: In developing water resource projects, State government will protect and minimize impacts to cultural and recreational uses.

Discussion:

- 1, a: The BCDC, CDFW, Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission have multiple interests in public access. It's more than beach access. It's also access for commerce, duck hunting, other recreation, education, navigation and public trust.
2. State government will, when resources are available, engage in statewide recreational research and planning so that investments in recreational resources and facilities are efficient, effective and meet the needs to all Californians. Item #a: Document and report on water-dependent recreational trends in California (including associated benefits and threats). Item #b: Assess the feasibility of incorporating public access facilities in IWM projects funded by the state and federal governments, and promote multi-benefit projects. Item #c: Collaboration between state conservation agencies and local agencies to systematically plan for maintaining or relocating recreational opportunities threatened by climate change or IWM projects. Item #d: State Parks will lead comprehensive recreation resource planning of the state's inland waterway and engage the public and interested stakeholders. Prioritization of facilities supporting recreation activities, especially those benefitting disadvantaged communities.

Discussion:

- The idea of "meeting the needs of all Californians" may set an unrealistic threshold. Not everything is for everyone, at the same time.



3. All State agencies with water-dependent recreation and tourism responsibilities will work with local agencies to enhance safe public access through recreational facilities and programs that provide multiple benefits. Item #a: State government will support or construct water-dependent recreation projects that provide multiple benefits (examples provided). Item #b: Encourage partnerships to expand water-dependent recreation and tourism in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, while minimizing impacts to non-recreational landowners. Item #c: Increase water-dependent recreation opportunities, on existing public lands and where feasible; pursue acquisition opportunities for open space and public access in areas where demand for access exceeds supply. Item #d: State agencies will prioritize construction of water-dependent recreation facilities identified in IRWM plans.

Discussion:

- Is item 3, d referring to IRWMs? (Yes).
4. All State agencies with water-dependent recreation and tourism responsibilities will cooperate with local agencies, businesses and the general public to promote healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship to benefit public health, improve the environment and encourage resource-based tourism. Specific agencies (listed) will improve outreach and education to children and in disadvantage communities that will improve public health, support California's outdoor lifestyle and promote wise use of water resources. Item #a: Convene a task force to identify priority water-based tourism and recreational opportunities, and develop an education and outreach campaign. Item #b: Develop a Sierra Nevada Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Strategy to promote sustainable water-related recreation. Item #c: Ensure adequate funding to support sustainable water-based tourism, recreation and public access, by developing a five-year funding source portfolio. Item #d: State agencies will implement the above plans to promote sustainable tourism and recreational activities and public access.

Discussion:

- This item has previously received comments about access on private property and protected areas.
- Consider adding a sentence to connect public access with public health and recreation.
- There is also the concept of visual public access.
- 4, c: The language about a 5-year funding portfolio may need to be reworded. There are interests concerned with public goods charges. Statements about funding should allow consistent interpretation by the reader.



Attendance

In-Room

Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Al Herson, American Planning Association
John Hopkins, Institute for Ecological Health
Valerie Nera, California Chamber of Commerce
Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Paul Massera, DWR, Water Plan Program Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Brian Campbell, East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Mike Chapel, Consultant, California Biodiversity Council
Randy Davis, City of Gridley
Ron Davis, Burbank Power and Water
Alicia Eagan, Edelman
Elizabeth Grassi, Strategic Growth Council
Bruce Gwynne, Department of Conservation
Alex Kim, UC Davis
Glenn Knapp, City of Fresno
Debbie Liebersbach, Turlock Irrigation District
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno
Eugene Massa, Biggs-Gridley Irrigation District
Cynthia Naha, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria
Tony St. Amant, blogger on water issues
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District
Ron Sprague, County Planners Association
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Eric Thorburn, Oakdale Irrigation
Iovanka Todt, Floodplain Management Association
Bori Touray, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Betty Yee, Central Valley Water Boards

Alan Aguilar, DWR
Jennifer Kofoid, DWR
Katherine Spanos, DWR
Terri Wegener, DWR, Manager, Statewide Flood Management

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